

the chronicle

SWEET SOPHIE IS NOT REALLY A LITTLE DEVIL

— see page 4



BADGE OF SUCCESS AS BETHAN SHOWS HER ART SKILLS

— see page 5



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Flood prevention scheme opens



Wyre Forest MP Mark Garnier, right, opens the new flood defence scheme with Gill Holland and district council leader Councillor John Campion

A NEW Bewdley flood prevention scheme has been officially unveiled by MP Mark Garnier.

Four years ago the Queensway Estate in Wribbenhall, Bewdley was the scene of heavy flooding, with more than 50 homes affected.

The new scheme consists of an L-shaped embankment, combined with a structure which allows upstream water to be stored, which should reduce water volume when flow levels are high.

Back in 2007 the problem was that a culvert which should have channelled water could not cope with sudden high volume.

Mr Garnier said: "I am delighted to have been asked to open this crucial new project as I remember extremely well the devastation that the flash floods caused to residents of Wribbenhall in 2007.

"Everyone involved has put in a lot of work, especially Gill Holland (from the Riddings Brook Flood Group) who has been leading residents' action against flooding in Bewdley.

"She really is a local hero who, along with other volunteers, must have put in thousands of hours over the years."

Capacity

Other work in the area has included increasing the capacity of the culvert underneath Kidderminster Road, adding further road gullies and altering speed humps so they do not trap surface water.

Gill Holland added: "We are particularly grateful to landowner Chris Grainger for allowing the flood storage area to be built on his field, and to the Local Levy system of funding which has enabled this small scheme to be financed."

Harriers now hunting for new investors at Aggborough

KIDDERMINSTER Harriers have launched a fresh appeal for new financial backers as three Aggborough directors stepped down.

In an open letter, chairman Mark Serrell revealed that vice-chairman Wayne Allen and board member Keith Chandler will relinquish their roles but will remain at the club as associate directors, while fellow director Andrew Maidstone is leaving.

Mr Serrell has admitted finding it difficult combining running the Blue Square Premier club with his own business interests.

It is just over a year since he first arrived at Aggborough to assist David Reynolds, back for a second term as chairman, with the club in dire financial straits.

Mr Reynolds stepped aside and Mr Serrell took charge in the New Year — but Harriers were hours away from going into administration in February before a fundraising effort secured their immediate future.

But Mr Serrell feels further investment is needed. In his letter, he said: "We will continue to invest our own time and money into doing what we can to ensure the club makes further progress.

Prosper

"Plainly, we cannot do this alone. We appeal today for anyone who feels they can help Kidderminster Harriers continue on its path towards long-term sustainability.

"This is not simply a plea for money alone. The football club in the longest term needs more than money to survive and prosper.

"We would be keen to speak to anyone who may be willing to invest a sum of money or time and energy to raise funds for the club.

"A number of individuals have all made pledges."

Meanwhile, Harriers landed a coup with the signing of former England international and Aston Villa man Lee Hendrie.

The Birmingham-born 34-year-old has made more than 350 senior appearances in Britain, and returned recently from a spell in Indonesia playing for Bandung.

● Match reports — Page 32

Clubs will act over faked ID

YOUNG people flashing a fake or borrowed ID to get their hands on booze at Kidderminster pubs and clubs face a crackdown by bar owners.

Instead of just asking the youngsters to leave, staff will seize any ID card which does not belong to the person producing it and either keep it for the owner to collect or hand it to police.

Youngsters are warned that using someone else's ID is a criminal offence under the Identity Act.

Mark Carter, chairman of the Kidderminster Licensing Association and owner of Carters Bar in Vicar Street, said the problem of children borrowing elder siblings' ID had overtaken that of fakes bought from the internet. Sole accepted ID is a hologram photograph, preferably a driving licence or passport.

Date set for lights event

KIDDERMINSTER'S Christmas lights switch-on will take place on Saturday, November 19.

Festivities will begin at 2pm outside the town hall and entertainment will include performances by St George's Choir and Kidderminster singer Laura Broad.

Father Christmas will meet youngsters from 3.30-4pm before leading the switch-on at 4.30pm. Entertainment will also take place throughout the day.

Mercia Waste and protesters prepare for planning inquiry

SHOWDOWN ON INCINERATOR

BATTLE LINES are being drawn as protesters prepare for an eight-day inquiry into a planned £120million waste burning incinerator in Hartlebury.

Members of protest group Wail have raised thousands of pounds for their fight since the scheme for the EnviRecover plant, on Hartlebury Trading Estate, was called in.

It means that the organisation has been able to employ expert legal and planning advice.

Wail — Worcestershire residents Against Incineration and Landfill — has been granted permission to speak at the inquiry. It will be run by Eric Pickles, Secretary of State for communities and local government, from Tuesday November 22 at the County Hall, Worcester.

Wail chairman Ray Kirby said: "Wail, along with their legal and planning experts, have been diligently going through the proof of evidence supplied by Mercia Waste and its representatives.

"We are confident we have a robust and undeniable case to put forward and are delighted that our arguments will be heard in full.

"Wail have been overwhelmed with the scale of support we have

By Sarah Hazelwood

s.hazelwood@expressandstar.co.uk

received across the community."

During a planning meeting in March the group had just five minutes to make its case before the application was given the go-ahead by Worcestershire County Council.

Mercia director John Plant said: "We are confident that the inquiry will recognise that EnviRecover will deliver an appropriate, robust, and sustainable waste management solution for the local authorities and one that brings added benefits through generating renewable energy, and stimulating the local economy."

Wail will hold a public meeting at Hartlebury Parish Hall at 7.30pm on November 14.

Olympic flame to visit district

THE Olympic torch will light up Kidderminster and Bewdley next year.

The iconic flame will travel through Wyre Forest on May 24 ahead of the 2012 London Games and take in Far Forest and Callow Hill.

Councillor Tracey Onslow, district council cabinet member with responsibility for community wellbeing, said:

"We are delighted to be able to announce that the Olympic torch relay will be passing through the Wyre Forest district. It's a great opportunity for everyone in the district to see the Olympic Flame."

● Full story — Page 8



Councillors Stephen Cleve and Tracey Onslow join pupils from Bewdley Primary School and Bewdley School and Sixth Form Centre at Bewdley Severn Valley Railway station to celebrate the announcement

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New number to contact police

WEST Mercia Police can now be contacted more easily for non-emergencies.

These can now be reported by dialling 101.

It costs 15 pence to call 101 regardless of time of day or length of call and the service is available round the clock. The move is to cut down on the number of inappropriate calls on 999 which can delay a response to genuine emergencies.

Conservation area plan for historic town street

AN HISTORIC Kidderminster street could be protected from development under plans to make it a conservation area.

The public are being asked for their views on the proposals for Green Street in Kidderminster.

Wyre Forest District Council says the surrounding area would be preserved for the future. It is one of the last historic industrial areas of the town and features three listed carpet factories and several landmark buildings, including Grade II Listed Caldwell Hall and Elgar House.

Turning it into a conservation area would recognise it as having "special historic interest, character or architectural appearance".

Any new development would have to fit in with the character of the area and abide by strict rules.

Pensioner punches mugger

A PENSIONER threw a punch at the mugger who robbed him in Stourport.

The man, in his 70s, was targeted on Vale Road.

As he reached a building site next to the Esso garage, a man reached into one of the victim's jacket pockets and pushed him sideways towards the road.

As the pensioner steadied himself, he realised the attacker had his wallet so swung a punch at him.

The thief dropped the wallet and ran off towards the town centre. The wallet was recovered but £85 had been stolen from it. The incident happened at about 12.30pm on November 3.

The robber was a white man aged about 30, around 5ft 10in and of medium build.

Police can be contacted on 0300 333 3000.

A draft document is available for public comment.

Councillor Julian Phillips, cabinet member for place-shaping said: "The council is currently at the draft stage of the appraisal process."

"We're asking local people to take part in the consultation by identifying the qualities and features that they feel are important to the character of the proposed Green Street Conservation Area. This area covers the historic core of Kidderminster, a historic core we should be proud of."

Hub

The draft plan can be viewed in the conservation section of the council's website at www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk until December 15. It will go on show from that date at the Worcestershire Hub at Kidderminster Town Hall and Stourport Civic Centre.

Comments can be emailed to conservation@wyreforestdc.gov.uk or sent to The Conservation Officer, Planning and Regulatory Services Directorate, Duke House, Clensmore Street, Kidderminster, DY10 2JX.

Jason's pumpkin prize



Jason Byrne, right, of Bewdley Pet Supplies, receives his first place award from Councillor Paul Gittins after judging on Bewdley Pumpkin Day

ORGANISERS have hailed Bewdley Pumpkin Day as a big success, with a riverside market and many shops featuring window displays.

These were judged by Paul and Carol Gittins who were in town launching The

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Bewdley Pet Supplies was the winner with Granny's Tap second. Third place went to Duce and Romao. The focus now turns to the town's Christmas Lights Festival which takes place on Saturday, November 26.

Major plans for safari park get warm welcome

AMBITIOUS plans for a 250-room hotel, indoor water park and conference centre at West Midland Safari Park have been welcomed by residents.

Details of the scheme, to be carried out over 10 years if approved, went on show for the first time at the attraction's Spring Grove House this week.

And organisers from RPS, the park's planning advisor, said there had been a "steady flow" of visitors during the day to see the plans and ask questions about the development, which could create 300 new jobs.

The scheme has been drawn up as Wyre Forest District Council works on a new policy to guide development at the attraction over the coming years.

Bosses have drawn up a masterplan of the improvements and want to hear what members of the public think. Alongside the hotel, water park and conference centre there are also plans to create a new rail link between the park and the Severn Valley Railway.

Monorail

A monorail transporting visitors from the railway link to the hotel also features in the scheme.

Among the exhibition visitors were Trevor and Barbara Thorpe, of Bewdley, who were "very impressed" by the scheme.

Mrs Thorpe, aged 72, said: "I think this will help to put the town on the map."

Plans for the water park will make this a year-round attraction for people to visit.

"The hotel will allow people to stay over so rather than being just a day visit it can be spread out over a couple of days. These are excellent ideas."

Mr Thorpe, aged 75, added: "The rail link connecting the park to the Severn Valley Railway will also be a real boost."

Buckets of help for choir

KIND-HEARTED members of the Odell Centre made an extra donation to the Pearl of Africa choir after a collection bucket was stolen.

The bucket, containing around £60, was taken as the choir, made up of orphans from Uganda, sang outside Kidderminster Town Hall on October 25.

Money had been intended for the Molly and Paul Child Care Foundation, which helps improve the children's schools and homes.

However, during a concert at the Odell Centre, for adults with learning difficulties, the next day an extra £56 was donated on top of hundreds of pounds already raised by the group.

Kate Oakley, volunteer for the Pearl of Africa, said: "The Odell Centre was so welcoming. I happened to mention the incident and they had a whip round and donated a further £56."

The choir is at the Knoll School in Kidderminster on Friday, November 18.

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Decision soon on bid to get castle funding

A TRUST battling to buy historic Hartlebury Castle to ensure it remains open to the public will learn within days if a vital bid for £2.5million funding has been successful.

Hartlebury Castle Preservation Trust will discover on November 15 if its initial application for cash from the Heritage Lottery Fund has been agreed.

Members said that the decision would be a very important step in their plans to buy the site – and admitted that it would be a “nail-biting” few days.

The group is already on the way to securing £25,000 in match funding which is needed as part of the bid and is confident all the cash will be available by next month. Much of the money has been raised through donations and charity events.

Santa to sparkle at Swan grotto

KIDDERMINSTER'S Swan Centre is looking to put some sparkle into Christmas with Santa's Grotto. The attraction features snow, twinkling lights and skiing snowmen plus Santa in his log cabin.

Advice line's longer hours

WYRE Forest Citizens Advice Bureau has extended the hours of its telephone information service.

The service can now be reached five days a week, from 10am to 4pm.

Call 0844 4111303, or 0300 3300650 from a mobile.

Alternatively, ring for an appointment at Kidderminster, Stourport or Bewdley on 01562 60194.

CAB is part of the Worcestershire Advice Line Service.

Allen's in peak form for charity



Allen Birch with Ian Baldry, the Worcestershire county co-ordinator for Help for Heroes and Andrea Clarke, who joined Mr Birch on a Mount Snowdon trek

SPRIGHTLY 91-year-old Allen Birch has handed over more than £3,000 to armed forces charity Help for Heroes after walking up Snowdon. The great-grandfather, a former soldier in the Royal Engineers, was congratulated on his “tremendous effort”.

It is the fourth time Mr Birch, of Wribbenhall, Bewdley, has tackled the 3,560ft mountain since his 86th birthday. Previous outings have raised thousands of pounds for Bewdley Scouts, the town's Methodist

Church and Kidderminster Hospital.

This time he generated £3,320 in sponsorship and is planning his next climb in 2012, which will be in aid of the Midlands Air Ambulance. Mr Birch said: “I think it is a really important charity.”

He served during the Second World War in Hamburg and Egypt, building bridges and clearing mines.

Ian Baldry, Worcestershire county co-ordinator for the charity, visited Mr Birch's home to collect the cheque and thank him.

If the first-phase funding is agreed on November 15 the group will then need to make a second, more detailed, application to the trust for final approval.

Members are “optimistic” but continuing to look at other options, should the bid be rejected.

The group wants to buy the castle from the Church of England to ensure the site stays open to the public.

It was deemed surplus to requirements more than a year ago, and the trust given an exclusive option to buy it.

Extra

But talks broke down after the trust said the asking price and conditions were unrealistic.

Church officials decided to put the site on the open market, but gave the trust extra time to raise the cash.

The castle is due to go up for sale in April.

Trustee Amanda Price said: “We will be notified on November 15. It is going to be a little nail-biting.”

“Obviously we are all just hoping for a positive result,” she added.

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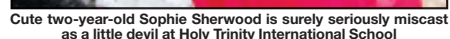
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Steaming in with musical audition

Iain Reddihough, artistic director of the theatre, said: "The Railway Children is a great and well loved story and we are delighted to have the opportunity to stage it at the theatre."

Around 40 children ranging in ages from 11 months to five years took part in the seasonal fun, with staff also dressing up to get into the Halloween mood.



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Lend a hand plea on Christmas Festival

VOLUNTEERS are urgently needed to help out with this year's Bewdley Christmas Lights Festival.

The festival takes place throughout the day on Saturday, November 26 to coincide with the switch-on of the town's lights at 5.30pm.

Entertainment will include a fairground, brass band and a fancy dress parade plus more than 70 stalls.

Ring up help for charity

A WYRE FOREST computer firm has dialled up support for charity.

OGL Computer raised £326 by selling use company mobile phones.

The cash has gone to Stourport-based children's charity, Mentor Link.

The organisation trains and provides mentors to support school children throughout the county who face such difficulties as family breakdown, low confidence, illness and bereavement.

The mentor is trained to listen to, support and encourage the young people with the aim of creating a more positive attitude towards themselves and learning.

OGL Computer, which has bases in Kidderminster and Stourport, provides IT support, software and hardware for business.

The firm, which sponsors Kidderminster Harriers, is also donating £1 to Mentor Link for every Harriers FC replica football shirt which is sold.

A really cool winner



Bethan Hyde, winner of the Barnett Hill Christmas badge competition. Inset, Bethan's winning penguin design

ARTY schoolgirl Bethan Hyde has won a garden centre's annual Santa badge design contest.

Bethan's penguin and icebergs design caught the eye of judges at Barnett Hill Garden Centre in Worcester Road, Clent.

Now six-year-old Bethan is looking forward to meeting Santa in person when he arrives in his sleigh, pulled by two reindeer, on Saturday (November 12).

Bethan, "thrilled and excited to have won" will be the first person to meet Santa and will join him on his sleigh. She also wins a prize to the value of £30 while her school, Heronswood Primary, gets a free Christmas tree.

Bethan's father, Paul, said: "She got the idea for the design when she was looking at the DVD case for Happy Feet. She drew it all on her own - which is quite amazing for her age." And Bethan's favourite thing about Christmas? "Mince pies and presents."

Saturday's event at the garden centre starts at 2.30pm.

Hour

"We could do with a few more volunteers to assist with all this on the day. Even if it's an hour of their time it would be a big help."

District councillor for Bewdley & Arley, Julian Phillips, has helped organise the last two Christmas Festivals. He said: "The Christmas Festival is the town's second carnival. Last year we had more than 4,000 people attend."

Anyone who can help out should phone Maggie Dalloway on 01299 404065, Ann Lyman on 01299 404226 or send an email to julian.phillips@wyreforestdc.gov.uk

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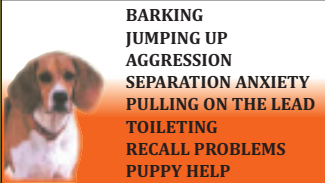
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Leona Lewis

Mr Know It All
Kelly Clarkson

Moves Like Jagger
Maroon 5 featuring
Christina Aguilera

What Makes You
Beautiful
One Direction

Wherever You Will Go
Charlene Soraia

It Will Rain
Bruno Mars

Lego House
Ed Sheeran

All About Tonight
Pixie Lott

Lightning
The Wanted

Last Friday Night
Katy Perry

The King of Crazy just called me weird!

HOW COOL was Noddy Holder last week!? Awesome to have my uncle pop onto the show and say hello.

Some people have asked if Noddy Holder calling me weird hurt my feelings. The King of Crazy calling me weird is actually the greatest compliment I could EVER have been paid! He was such a great bloke to chat to and I hope to get him back on The Wyre soon!

Next week we are asking the big question: Is it TOO SOON to play a Christmas song? Many of you may recoil at the thought, but we have had a few people asking for some festive favourites.

Therefore we will put it to YOU throughout next week: "Would you like a Christmas song?" If the majority is Yes then we will play Fairytale of New York on Friday's show. If it's no then, well...we won't! To help you decide we will be talking to some Christmas

Song Ambassadors every day after 8am. Who ARE these mysterious Ambassadors? Well, you'll have to listen every day to find out!

There's a Children In Need fun day at St Chad's Church, Comberton on Saturday (November 12) from 1-5pm. Entrance is 50 pence with plenty of things to keep you entertained including hook a duck, live entertainment, guess the teddy's name and more. Any other ideas are welcome; call 01562 515738 or 07858 548965.

As always, lots more fun and nonsense on The Wyre Breakfast when you start your day.

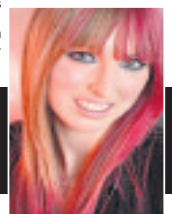
We do the serious stuff, too (news, weather, travel) but I outsource that to the intelligent beautiful Ruth and the gorgeous and stupid Dan Haycocks.

That way I can concentrate on drinking coffee and eating biscuits.

If you need to contact 107.2 The Wyre or have a community announcement, email info@thewyre.com

WEATHER UPDATE

RAIN looks likely today, although the weather should turn dry by tomorrow with bright spells and mild breezes. Saturday should stay dry with only the odd shower; perhaps there may be a touch more rain on the following day. Temperatures next week should be above average generally, but be aware of the possibility of occasional overnight frost, particularly if there is any fog about.



DANI WOZENCROFT FROM WYRE NEWS WITH THE LATEST ROADWORKS

Bringing travel updates to keep you moving...

Kidderminster.
Habberley Road has temporary traffic lights at the St Johns Avenue junction until tomorrow (November 11).

Castle Road has temporary traffic lights until tomorrow (November 11).
Highfield Road is closed near Turton Street until November 12.

Lower Mill Street has a lane shut until November 17.

A442 Worcester Road is closed between The Ringway and Chester Road South until November 21.

Bewdley
Beales Corner has temporary traffic lights today (November 10).

Far Forest.
Kinlet Road has temporary traffic lights by Furnace Mill Bridge until tomorrow (November 11).

Stourport
A451 Minster Road has a lane closed from Oldington Lane Junction until tomorrow (November 11).

Welch Gate has temporary traffic lights by the Dog Lane/Load Street junction on November 13.

B4195 Bewdley Road North is closed near Steatite Way until November 17.

Minster Road has one lane closed near the Oldington Lane junction until December 7.

A451 Milton Street has one lane

closed near the Oldington Lane junction until December 7.

Milton Street has lanes closed between Worcester Road and Lion Hill until March 31, 2012.

Milton Street has temporary traffic lights at the Severn Road junction until April 5, 2012.

Churchill
Stakenbridge Lane has temporary traffic lights opposite Railway Cottage until tomorrow (November 11).

Join the team every weekday for updates on the roads across Worcestershire. Tune into 107.2 The Wyre. You can be a Jam-buster, call 0333 123 1072.

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Farmer's plea on gipsy site

A FARMER made an emotional plea to councillors to re-think proposals for a travellers site near his home at a lively public meeting in Stourport.

Manor Farm is one of four spots being considered in the town for new pitches by Wyre Forest District Council. But Tim Barnes fears it will put his farm in jeopardy.

Mr Barnes, whose family have worked on the land since 1957, says the farm is home to three businesses and employs six people.

At a public meeting at Stourport Civic Hall, where around 180 people packed in to hear the debate, he said it had been "a stressful time" for his family and urged council chiefs to scrap the plans.

"Please can you think about people's families and livelihoods. Manor Farm has been my past and Stourport's past. With all of your help it can be my future too," he said. Consultation runs until November 18.

Club to stage fireworks night

SPARKS will fly when Upper Arley Social Club holds its bonfire and fireworks night on Saturday.

Other attractions at the family event include a disco, small funfair, hot food and a bar. The bonfire will be lit at 7.30pm with fireworks half an hour later. Entry is £3 adults, £2 under-14s.

Birds of Gambia

WEST Midland Bird Club's Kidderminster Branch hosts Ashley Grove talking on Gambian birds on November 23 at St Oswald's Church centre, Broadwaters (7pm).

Danger warning issued over counterfeit vodka

A DANGER alert has been sent out to Wyre Forest residents after a new discovery of illegal and potentially harmful vodka.

Three individuals were arrested in July by HM Revenue and Customs and a further person is the subject of an investigation by Trading Standards.

The move followed the seizure of 12,000 litres of counterfeit vodka branded as Arctic Ice.

But 10 further bottles have now been found in Bromsgrove, prompting a warning by Worcestershire Regulatory Services.

Analysis of the alcohol revealed dangerous levels of methanol, commonly used in antifreeze, solvents and cleaning fluids and also to power speedway bikes.

Smaller

Further bottles are thought to have been sold on already through independent retailers and may turn up in smaller shops and off-licences.

Two people in Birmingham are already known to have become ill after drinking the fake vodka. Trading Standards is urging everyone to be on their guard and help stop anyone else becoming ill by reporting anything they believe to be suspicious.

Steve Jorden, head of Worcestershire Regulatory Services, said: "As we enter the party season people might be more tempted by cheap alcohol but we urge everyone - residents and traders - to be on their guard and keep a look out for Arctic Ice vodka."

"If anyone does see any of this vodka on sale please contact us through the Worcestershire Hub on 01905 822799."



A bottle of the counterfeit vodka

New £38m offices handed to council

ASTOURPORT building firm has handed over new flagship offices to Birmingham City Centre.

Thomas Vale Construction has passed the keys of 10 Woodcock Street, Aston to the council.

The action was marked by a recent event for local school children and a civic ceremony in the evening hosted by the Lord Mayor, including the unveiling of two school time capsules.

The offices, close to Aston University, provide around 22,000 square metres of accommodation over five floors and will be the base for more than 3,000 Birmingham City Council employees.

The design of the £38million workplace includes many sustainable and energy efficient solutions.

Councillor Randal Brew, city council cabinet member for finance, said it was "a fantastic example" of a working environment.

Paul Clarke, strategic projects director for Thomas Vale Construction, said the firm was "delighted to complete the prestigious 10 Woodcock Street project".



Paul Clarke, of Thomas Vale, and Councillor Anita Ward, Lord Mayor of Birmingham, in the new offices



The flagship offices at Woodcock Street, Aston

Olympic flame to burn brightly throughout the Wyre Forest

THE Wyre Forest will play host to the Olympic flame in the run-up to the London Games next year.

The route of the iconic flame has been confirmed as travelling through the district to Kidderminster and Bewdley.

Far Forest and Callow Hill were also revealed on Monday as part of the national relay and will welcome the torch on May 24.

The London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) have been working closely with a number of representatives from Wyre Forest to devise the route which will be confirmed street by street next year.

Councillor Tracey Onslow, Wyre Forest District Council's cabinet member with responsibility for community wellbeing, said: "We are delighted to be able to announce that the Olympic torch relay will be passing through the Wyre Forest district."

"It's a great opportunity for everyone in the district to see the Olympic Flame and witness the spectacle of the Olympic torch relay."

Countdown

"It will mark the countdown to the start of the Games and we hope that people will turn out to welcome the flame and support the people who have been chosen to run with it."

The 70-day relay will see the flame travel through Wyre Forest before reaching the rest of the Midlands, culminating in a special evening of celebrations during an overnight stay in Birmingham city centre on June 30.

Former athlete David Moorcroft, chairman of West Midlands for 2012, said the event will be a "once in a lifetime" experience for many people. "What fantastic news for the residents of Wyre Forest that they will have their opportunity to welcome the Olympic Flame," he said.

"We encourage communities to start thinking now about how they will celebrate as the Olympic Torch Relay signals the approach of the London 2012 Olympic games."

More than 95 per cent of the population will be within just 10 miles of the flame next summer as 8,000 inspirational torchbearers take to the streets.

Lord Sebastian Coe, chair of LOCOG, said: "We are thrilled to confirm that Kidderminster and Bewdley will act as host locations for the Olympic Flame, extending an invitation to people in the Wyre Forest district to welcome the Olympic torch relay during its journey around the UK."



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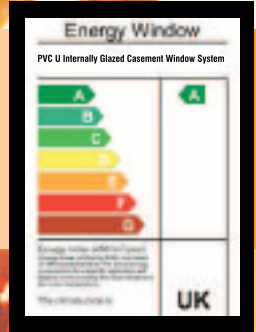
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Burlish Park Primary School pupils, from left, Emily Dent, Tyler Penn and Milly Edwards, all aged eight, learn about pumpkins at D Southall & Sons farm

Now for that pumpkin pie

PUPILS at a school in Stourport were inspired to make their own pumpkin pie after an educational visit to a pumpkin farm.

The youngsters from Burlish Park Primary School saw pumpkins and purple sprouting broccoli being picked and packed at D Southall & Sons farm, on Crossway Green, ready to be sent to supermarkets.

They were given a guided tour by Paul and Mike Southall and on their return to school researched recipes and then made some pumpkin pie.

Lynda Williams, eco schools co-ordinator at Burlish, said: "It was a brilliant morning for the children."

"Our Year 4 topic is all about sustainability and how buying imported food can contribute to increasing our carbon footprint."

"We learned lots about how a modern arable farm works and the importance of buying local produce."

She said pupils were surprised to learn that pumpkins grown near Stourport ended up in supermarkets all over the country.

Year Four teacher Rhian Duckworth added: "Following the farm visit our pupils were really motivated to find out how to cook pumpkins."

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More time to fill in survey on broadband

THE online survey about broadband provision in the county has been extended. Residents and businesses now have until November 15 to take part.

Worcestershire County Council is working on a local plan for the entire county to improve speed, coverage and reliability of broadband. But it needs results from the five-minute survey which can be filled in online.

With national funding already secured, plans will be submitted to Broadband Delivery UK later this month.

It is hoped that extra funds will help tackle areas of the county with either no broadband coverage or very low bandwidth, particularly rural areas, and increase speeds to maximise business competitiveness.

Councillor Simon Geraghty, county council cabinet member for economy and infrastructure, said effective broadband is critical to the county's corporate plan.

Grateful

"We encourage residents and businesses to spend just five minutes of their time to complete the simple online survey," he added.

"We would be extremely grateful to all those who can take part by November 115, to show that there is a real need for faster and better broadband for both residents and businesses in the county."

To take part, visit www.worcestershire.gov.uk/broadband and click on "Broadband survey for residents" or "Broadband survey for businesses".

Going for gold with recycling

RESIDENTS are being asked to make an Olympic recycling effort before the 2012 Games.

County and district councils are joining together to ask: "Are you a recycling gold medalist?" in a campaign urging everyone to play their part. Leaflets will be circulated to households to suggest ideas.

Christopher Atkinson, senior waste prevention officer, said: "Residents across Worcestershire have recycled more than 50,000 tonnes through kerbside collections in the last year, which is enough to fill more than 100 Olympic size swimming pools."

"But there is more that can be done. The leaflet offers residents the opportunity to test how good they are at recycling."

"Those who do everything right can award themselves a gold medal."

Stretch and smile as yoga group aims to de-stress

A YOGA class designed to boost morale as well as energy levels is coming to Kidderminster.

Group leaders Diane Ricci and Sarah Tamar will run the laughter yoga exercise group which aims to de-stress, ease painful joints and provide a full workout while releasing natural bursts of laughter.

The pair, both tutors for the Workers' Educational Association, will lead a taster session on Thursday, November 24, from 10.30-11.30am at Holy Innocents Community Hall, on Foley Park.

Dance teacher Diane, aged 51, said: "We don't try and make people laugh. We just encourage exercises which release the endorphins that make us smile, helping to relax people."

Sarah, 58, added: "It is the perfect antidote to ease a stressful life." There will be a small charge for the class. Call Diane on 01562 864683 or Sarah on 07798 862312.

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Television personality Gethin Jones launched The Royal British Legion's 2011 Poppy Appeal on Thursday 27th October as the UK's leading Armed Forces charity announced a £40 million fundraising goal in its most ambitious campaign ever.

To mark its 90th anniversary year, the Legion launched its Poppy Appeal under the slogan of standing "shoulder to shoulder with all who serve." The theme is backed by an online campaign and a chart-topping official single recorded by Robin Gibb and The Soldiers.

Holding Out For A Hero presenter Gethin Jones said: "I'm honoured to be launching the Poppy Appeal. I've experienced first-hand what life is like for our brave Service men and women on operations and how much the British public's support means to them.

"They risk so much for us every single day. I ask everyone to throw their support behind the Appeal and to wear their poppy with pride."

The Poppy Appeal raises funds needed to support those currently serving in Afghanistan, veterans of past conflict and their families.

The Legion unveiled a major social media campaign (shouldertoshoulder.org.uk) to capture public support and encouragement for British Armed Forces. Members of the public are encouraged to pin a poppy to an online photograph, add a message of support, and place it alongside thousands of others on an interactive wall.

"Of course, everyone who wears the paper poppy is also standing shoulder to shoulder," said Legion Director of Fundraising Russell Thompson OBE. "It doesn't really matter whether you wear your poppy on the street or online - just so long as you wear your poppy with pride."

The Royal British Legion: The Royal British Legion stands shoulder to shoulder with all who serve. It is the nation's leading Armed Forces charity providing care and support to all members of the British Armed Forces past and present and their families. It is also the national Custodian of Remembrance and safeguards the Military Covenant between the nation and its Armed Forces. It is best known for the annual Poppy Appeal and its emblem, the red poppy. www.britishlegion.org.uk

Each year the nation expresses its unequivocal support for The Royal British Legion's charity work through the Poppy Appeal, emphasising the need to help the Afghan generation of the Armed Forces and their families - today and for the rest of their lives.

The annual Poppy Appeal is the Legion's major fundraising campaign and their aim this year is to surpass last year's total and raise £40 million. This will allow the Legion to continue the work that means so much to the thousands of serving and ex-Service people and their families, who approach the charity every year for help. They reached their target of £36 million for 2010.

The Legion helps people of all ages, providing financial, social and emotional help to all those who have been affected by conflict. Increasingly they see younger people coming to them for help. Beneficiaries range from children to widows, from single mothers to pensioners, in fact anyone who finds themselves in need of help. Some 9.5 million people are eligible to approach us for support.

The Poppy Appeal distributes around 45 million poppies, 100,000 wreaths and sprays and 750,000 Little Remembrance Crosses. These items are made at the Legion's Poppy Factory in Richmond, Surrey.

There are many ways to support The Poppy Appeal either individually or as a company. And now you can show your support digitally - by email, on your mobile and on Facebook.

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forget

If ye break faith
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we shall not
sleep, though
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Flanders fields

Colonel John McCrae



At the launch, The Soldiers performed the official Poppy Appeal song for 2011, I've Gotta Get a Message to You, recorded with pop legend Robin Gibb.

Robin, who wrote the chart-topping single with his brothers Barry and Maurice of the Bee Gees in 1968, said the single is a "moving tribute to our serving personnel who lay their lives on the line for our country every day."

"Although the song was not written all those years back about soldiers, it can represent the human emotions of Servicemen - or in this case, a single soldier," he added. "It's about being trapped in a corner far from home, brave but scared and thinking of loved ones. These men and women deserve our respect and support."

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Project sparks interest

BRIGHT sparks at a Kidderminster school are dealing with electrical recycling this week.

As part of International Recycling Week, King Charles I High School has been working with Stourbridge firm Overton Recycling Ltd.

The company deals with waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) and has been showing pupils how to do so in an environmentally responsible way.

An advertising campaign has been running on plasma screens at the Comberton Road school since September.

Throughout the week, pupils, staff and visitors are being encouraged to discard all types of unwanted small electrical items from both home and school including electronic games, printers, PCs and scanners.

They go into a bright pink WEEE Bank at the school's front entrance.

Overton, of Rufford Street, Ly is giving the school £60 for every tonne of material collected.

Look boys, it's your mother



Pull for the shore – Mrs Joan Griffiths is revealed as the bow passenger

AN ARCHIVE picture in last week's Chronicle of 1955 floods in Kidderminster brought back memories for a resident.

The photograph was part of an archive shown at Kidderminster Library.

It was recognised instantly by Mrs Roma Wall,

of Birmingham Road. "The lady in the boat in your picture of the flood is my late sister, Mrs Joan Griffiths," she said.

"She was being rescued from the family shop, Davies and Griffiths, 9 Vicar Street it followed by a scream and which I think is now part of a comment: 'It's your mother!'"

"I clearly remember mother saying: 'Look boys, there is a boat with people in the edge of the water watching with me and our mother.'"

Voluntary groups' cash cut

FUNDING for voluntary groups in Wyre Forest will be slashed by more than a quarter under new plans revealed by the district council.

The authority's outlay, split between six organisations, would drop from £64,540 to £47,540, which is a 26 per cent cut.

The Age UK Day Centre in Castle Road, Kidderminster; the town's Citizens Advice Bureau; Relate; Stourport Day Centre; Community Action Wyre Forest and Dial-a-Ride are all affected.

Council bosses say a lack of

resources has made the cuts unavoidable. It has called on the groups to take on more responsibility for themselves as part of the "Big Society". No decision is expected to be made on the proportion of the cuts until January.

Staff at the The Citizens Advice Bureau say they will be unable to plan next year's budget until they know how hard they will be hit.

The service, based at New Road, Kidderminster currently gets £26,000 a year. Manager Kate Bennett said: "It could have a major impact on our services. But at the moment we do not know – they could cut our funding by

more than others or we may escape the worst of it."

Rob Hartell, co-ordinator of Dial-a-Ride, which provides transport for 250 elderly and disabled people, says the charity faces an "uncertain future".

It gets £5,000 a year from the council but relies more on donations and bus fare revenue. "We have been going for 25 years and hopefully we will have a few years left yet – but it is hard to know at the moment," he said.

Councillor Tracey Onslow, cabinet member for community wellbeing, said funding was being reduced in line with a 25 per cent cut in Government grant.

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Official return of the 'Great Detective'



Sherlock Holmes returns in *The House of Silk*, the first Holmes novel approved by the estate of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

SIR Arthur Conan Doyle's great detective, Sherlock Holmes, is back in the first novel actually commissioned by the author's estate, *The House of Silk* (hardback, Orion, £18.99) by Anthony Horowitz.

Of course, Holmes is a master of the comeback. Conan Doyle apparently first killed him off when Holmes and his nemesis the criminal mastermind Professor Moriarty, plunged into the Reichenbach Falls in *The Final Solution*, first published in the Strand Magazine in 1893 and later included in *The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes*. However, so great was the outcry that the Scottish writer brought him back for another series of adventures, and Holmes was eventually to die in retirement on the South Downs having finally found time for his hobby of beekeeping.

The final collection of Holmes stories, *The Case-Book of Sherlock Holmes*, was published in 1927, three years before the author's death.

There have, of course, been lots of stories in print and on screen involving Holmes and his friend and biographer Dr John Watson since then, but this is the first work to be added to the official canon by Conan Doyle's estate. It comes at a time when the iconic detective has never been more popular, the two most recent manifestations of his enduring appeal being Guy Ritchie's actionman movie version and Steven Moffat and Mark Gatiss' more cerebral and stylish 21st century updating in a BBC TV drama.

But the elementary question remains, is it any good? The answer is an emphatic yes. The estate chose wisely in Horowitz who, though he is best known as a children's author for his hugely successful Alex Rider adventures, was the screenwriter who adapted Agatha Christie's fastidious Belgian detective Hercule Poirot for television.

The *House of Silk* is full of references that Holmes aficionados will recognise and enjoy but it is also a cracking crime mystery in its own right.

The set-up is the discovery of a manuscript, 100 years after the death of Holmes, which is Watson's account of a case so controversial and shocking that it could not be published.

So the game is afoot, again. An apparently straightforward case of an Irish-American ruffian seeking revenge on a London art dealer, because he was named alongside the millionaire who put trigger-happy Pinkerton agents on his gang's trail, proves to be more complex. When one of Holmes' Baker Street Irregulars, the street urchins who act as his eyes and ears in the criminal underworld, is brutally murdered Holmes vows to bring the mysterious *House of Silk* to justice.

Horowitz suggests Conan Doyle's style without risking parody and his descriptions are sometimes more detailed than those that Conan Doyle would give. He also omits the original author's more archaic turns of phrase. Often Conan Doyle's stories feature long periods of dialogue that read like a script whereas Horowitz creates a richly atmospheric London of fog, poverty and lurking evil. It is easy to deduce which book crime fiction fans should be reading this winter.

Leon Burakowski



Anthony Horowitz: the author who adapted Agatha Christie's Hercule Poirot for television has now created a new adventure for Sherlock Holmes



Free TV licence reminder for those over 75

ELDERLY people in Kidderminster are being reminded that they can get a free television licence.

At least 60 people in the town are due to pass the age of 75 in the next 12 months – and they are entitled to a free licence for their main address on that birthday.

More than 4,800 people in Kidderminster are among nearly four million across the UK who already benefit.

Those eligible can make their application online at www.tvlicensing.co.uk/over75 or by calling 0300 790 6073.

In addition if a resident of any age lives with someone aged over 75, that person's free licence will cover all the equipment in the property.

TV Licensing has been working with advice groups for older people to publicise the opportunity.

Michelle Mitchell, charity director for Age UK, said: "The cost of living continues to rise and affects everyone, but particularly older people who live on low fixed incomes."

Contact

"The free over-75 licence is a valuable concession which offers older people the chance to have a little extra to put towards other bills."

"We would encourage those who are already 75 and have not yet applied for their free licence to contact TV Licensing."

"Those aged 74 should also get in touch so that a short-term licence can be arranged."

Once a successful application has been made, TV Licensing will renew the licence automatically for three years, cutting down on excess paperwork.

Mark Whitehouse, of TV Licensing, said: "It's quick and easy to apply."

Spooky success to boost hospital fund



Granny and the reaper – Elaine Ball, leader of the exercise class, and her grandson Rhys Mouzer



Three of a kind, from left, Marion Eaton, Sheila Bishop and Dorothy Leighton

MEMBERS of an over-50s exercise class in Kidderminster raised more than £600 for The Birmingham Children's Hospital during a spook-tacular Halloween fair.

Ladies from Fired Up and Fifty-plus gave guests a trick and treat at the event at Kidderminster Town Hall on October 27 which supported the hospital's parent accommodation unit.

Founder Elaine Ball, whose grandson was born with a rare stomach disorder, thanked the hospital for its care and support to the family.

"Unfortunately the downturns did affect the numbers coming to the fair so we do have a lot of items let over which we are hoping to sell on during other events at the hall," she said. "We had a good day though and the ladies will continue their hard work to hit our £1,000 target."

To support the drive, e-mail Elaine at entendkid@googlemail.com or call 01562 700478 after 5pm.

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COMPETITION

Rousing start to festive countdown

IT'S sure to be a rousing start to the festive period. The Tattoo will feature 1,000 of the best military musicians and performers from across Europe and the UK.

And we've teamed up with the people at Birmingham's NIA to offer nine readers the chance to win a pair of tickets to the Birmingham International Christmas Tattoo being held in December.

For the first time the Norwegian King's Guard Band and their drill team will be present, joining the world-famous Band and Drums of Her Majesty's Royal Marines and the Corps of Drums of the Yorkshire Volunteers.

Gymnastic

Joining them will be the Band of the Liberation army from The Netherlands and the cream of British youth with the National Youth Marching Band.

The Tattoo is due to be held at the NIA on Saturday, December 10 at 6pm and Sunday, December 11 at 2pm and you can win tickets for the Saturday evening performance.

On top of all the musical mastery, there will be a dazzling gymnastic display from the Blue Falcons Gymnastic Display Team. The Inter-Service Field Gun Competition will bring their heavy guns to the arena along with the massed standard bearers from the Royal British Legion and there will be a dog display.

Finale

The performance will end with a spectacular festive finale featuring all the 1,000 performers.

Tickets are on sale now, priced at £22.50, £20, £18.50, £16.50 and £14.50 plus booking and transaction fees and are available online at www.theticketfactory.com or by calling 0844 338 8000.

More information on the Tattoo can be found at www.birmingham-tattoo.co.uk

Tattoo features 1,000 of best military musicians



HOW TO ENTER

To stand a chance of winning simply answer the following question:

What is the name of the gymnastics display team?

Send your answer on a postcard with your name, address and contact number (only one entry per household) to Tattoo Competition, Chronicle series (editorial), 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

Closing date: Thursday, November 17. Usual rules apply. Editor's decision is final.



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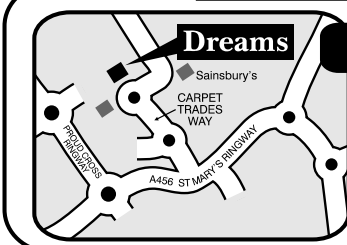
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**2 Erica Close
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**Baldwin Road
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Detached three bedroom property being offered for sale with no upward chain and comprising; two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, guest cloakroom, conservatory and family bathroom. Benefiting from being double glazed.

**NEW DEVELOPMENT**

Shrubbery Gardens, Kidderminster is a development of eight beautifully designed four bedroom detached properties set within a private, gated close.

Showhome available to view Friday to Monday 11:00am - 5:00pm

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First releases are;

Plot 2 - Detached 2 storey home with double garage and parking - £274,950

Plot 4 - Detached 2 storey home with integral garage and parking - £249,950

**Westley Court
Cookley****£79,950**

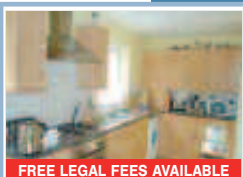
Upper floor apartment benefiting from being double glazed and having electric heating. Comprising; lounge, fitted kitchen with appliances, master bedroom with built-in wardrobes and bathroom.

**Lea Street
Kidderminster****£109,000****FREE LEGAL FEES AVAILABLE**

Mid terrace property comprising lounge, dining room, kitchen, ground floor bathroom, two bedrooms and attic room. Benefiting from being centrally heated and part double glazed.

**FT 7 Silver Court
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**Land Oak Court
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Well presented two bedroom first floor apartment. Comprising; lounge, fitted kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. Benefiting from being centrally heated and double glazed. Allocated parking to the rear.

**Turton Street
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End terrace property requiring an internal inspection in order to be fully appreciated. Having two reception rooms, modern style fitted kitchen, first floor bathroom and three bedrooms. The property benefits from being centrally heated and double glazed.

**Aggborough Crescent
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Double fronted versatile three/four bedroom detached home comprising; three reception rooms, fitted kitchen, utility room, guest cloakroom, conservatory, en-suite to master bedroom and shower room. Off road parking to the front, carport and garage. Being centrally heated and double glazed. T&Cs apply to free legal fees

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**Offmore Road
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Two bedroom traditional end terrace benefiting from being centrally heated and double glazed. Comprising; lounge, kitchen, first floor bathroom, master bedroom to first floor and attic room/bedroom two. T&C apply to free legal fees

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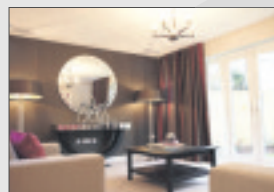
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Mediaeval Baebes, pictured by Scott Chalmers

Baebes bring Mediaeval Christmas to cathedral

THE UK's number one selling classical vocal group, Mediaeval Baebes, has announced a nine-date tour of England in December, which will include a show at Birmingham Cathedral on Tuesday, December 20.

This outing will continue the tradition of the Mediaeval Baebes' annual Christmas tour. As a festive season gift to fans, the singers will be releasing the first

single from their forthcoming album *The Huntress, Veni Veni Bella* as a free download with accompanying video in December.

Originally formed in 1996, the Mediaeval Baebes line up has evolved over the years and currently consists of musical director Katharine Blake alongside Sutton Coldfield woman Esther Dee, Emily Alice Ovenden, Bev Lee

Harling, Sarah Kayte Foster, Clare Edmondson and Tanya Jackson. These accomplished songwriters, multi-instrumentalists and vocalists create their unique sound by drawing inspiration from medieval texts with the use of both classical and medieval musical instruments.

See www.mediaevalbaebes.com for tickets, priced from £12.50 to £18.50.

Man who saved The Wizard conducts movie music

REOWNED conductor, arranger and film music expert John Wilson will be leading his orchestra to perform music from classic MGM musicals – music that he has saved from oblivion.

Wilson, who will be performing with his orchestra on November 28 at Birmingham Symphony Hall (call 0121 780 3333 or see www.thsh.co.uk), was given permission by Warner Bros – then rights holders to the MGM catalogue – to reconstruct the scores of such classic film musicals as *The Wizard of Oz*, *Meet Me in St. Louis* and *An American in Paris*.

In 1969 the studio made the blinkered decision to destroy the scores to their legendary film musical catalogue because it was taking up too much space. They ordered its destruction and the whole lot was buried under a golf

course – every MGM musical since the late 1920s was destroyed.

All that remained were the piano reductions, or "short scores," which had been lodged for copyright purposes in the Library of Congress in Washington, DC.

Ear

When Warner Bros granted Wilson permission to reconstruct the lost arrangements, it was to these short scores that he turned, using them as the basis for the Herculean undertaking of transcribing the original orchestrations by ear from the soundtrack recordings.

The resulting album, *That's Entertainment: A Celebration of the MGM Film Musical* was released to rave reviews and charted at 17 in the UK national album charts.



John Wilson

Promise to reveal all

FIFTY years after the very first meeting between showgirl Christine Keeler and MP John Profumo, the new play *Keeler* continues its tell all tour at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Monday to Saturday, starring Paul Nicholas.

In 1963, Secretary of State for War Profumo was forced to resign after it was established that he had lied to Parliament about the nature of his relationship with a young showgirl – Christine Keeler. She was involved with a Russian spy during her affair with the Secretary of State. The ensuing scandal was, in part, responsible for the resignation of Prime Minister Harold Macmillan, and the suicide of the man who introduced Keeler to Profumo, Stephen Ward.

Based on the 2001 autobiography *The Truth At Last*, by Christine Keeler with Douglas Thompson, this play written by Gill Adams with Keeler's approval, reveals the inside story of the biggest political sex scandal to rock Britain in the 20th century. Paul Nicholas, probably best known for his performance as Vince in the BAFTA award-winning television series *Just Good Friends*, plays Ward and former *Emmerdale* actress Alice Coulthard stars as Christine Keeler.

Buddy! the rock 'n' roll biographical musical about Texan rock legend Buddy Holly, is staged at Birmingham New Alexandra Theatre from Monday to Saturday.

Slava's Snowshow, the dream-like creation of brilliant Russian clown Slava Polunin, is returning to Birmingham Hippodrome for the first time in several years to astound a new generation. His company of clowns will be performing the frosty fantasy in the city this week until Sunday.

Slava's vision of clowning is light years away from the tired old big top stereotype. Once seen never forgotten, his show creates an alternative world of strange, surreal beauty where very peculiar things happen, such as a coat and hat stand getting a life of its own or a blizzard happening indoors.

Tickets are priced at £14 to £30. Special discounts for families available at certain performances. Tickets available on 0844 338 5000 or online at www.birminghamhippodrome.com.

Welsh National Opera performs Mozart's *Don Giovanni* at the Hippodrome on November 15 and 18, staging Janacek's *Katya Kabanova* on November 16 and Rossini's *The Barber of Seville* on November 17 and 19.

Where there's a Will

TEN years on from his Pop Idol triumph, Will Young is a multi-platinum selling singer and actor and has released his fifth studio album *Echoes*, including the hit *Jealousy* and new single *Come On*.

He will be in concert at Birmingham's O2 Academy on Sunday, November 20, with support from up-and-coming new band Lawson. See www.o2academybirmingham.co.uk.

Dreadzone

Other gigs to look out for include indie rockers The Pigeon Detectives at the O2 Academy 2 on Tuesday, November 20, with support from up-and-coming new band Lawson. See www.o2academybirmingham.co.uk.



Folk singer Kate Rusby

Kate's festive folk gig

ONE of the brightest stars of the English contemporary folk scene, Kate Rusby, will be performing songs from her second album of Yorkshire-inspired songs and Christmas carols at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Thursday, December 15.

She will be joined by her band and a brass quintet for her festive concert, drawing upon the new album *While Mortals Sleep*, interpreting traditional songs from her native county and performing self-penned material.

The new band will include Damien O'Kane on guitar and banjo, Duncan Lyall on double bass, Edmund Boyle guitar and bouzouki, and Julian Sutton on melodeon.

Tickets cost £20 (£12 under-16s). See www.wolvescivic.co.uk or call the box office on 0870 320 7000.

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THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE

BBC1, 9.15pm

The dependable Huw Edwards presents coverage of the annual event from the Royal Albert Hall in the presence of the Queen and other members of the royal family, and it's impossible not to be moved by an event that honours the people who have preserved our way of life. A whole host of big names provide the entertainment, with Cliff Richard, Katherine Jenkins and Joe McElderry performing alongside the Massed Bands of the Household Division and the band of His Majesty's Foot Guards.

9.00 Breakfast. **9.00 Bargain Hunt** Famous Film (F) **9.00 Lord Mervyn's Show** 2011 **9.00 BBC News** Regional News: Weather. **9.00 Formula 1: The Abu Dhabi Grand Prix.** Qualifying. Live coverage from the Yas Marina Circuit (Starttime 10.00pm). **9.00 Live Boxing.** **9.00 Remembrance Week.** **9.00 BBC News** Regional News: Weather. **9.00 The Impression Show** with Cuckoo and Stephenson (F) **9.00 Tonight's Night.**

9.00 Comedy Come Dine with Me. The nine remaining couples perform ballroom or Latin routines.

9.00 The Mervyn Show. Morgan joins forces with original wizard Albert to reveal Merlin's secret to the world.

9.00 The National Lottery Saturday Night Draw. Jenni Falconer announces the all-important numbers.

9.00 The Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance. Coverage of the annual event paying tribute to the victims of war and conflict, held at the Royal Albert Hall in the presence of the Queen.

9.00 BBC News at 10. National Lottery Update.

9.00 The Big Bang Theory. **9.00 The Big Bang Theory.** **9.00 The Big Bang Theory.**

9.00 Breakfast. **9.00 Bargain Hunt** Famous Film (F) **9.00 Lord Mervyn's Show** 2011 **9.00 BBC News** Regional News: Weather. **9.00 Formula 1: The Abu Dhabi Grand Prix.** Qualifying. Live coverage from the Yas Marina Circuit (Starttime 10.00pm). **9.00 Live Boxing.** **9.00 Remembrance Week.** **9.00 BBC News** Regional News: Weather. **9.00 The Impression Show** with Cuckoo and Stephenson (F) **9.00 Tonight's Night.**

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JANE 40's, blonde blue eyed petite build, with ties, WLTW understanding tall, caring man for daytime meets. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 375141

JOY very hot fun loving 35yr old American female over on regular business, looking for English gent for mutually convenient friendship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 378507

SHARON 32, attractive black single mum of one, very tactile and WLTW male 45-55yrs for fun meets. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 378565

SUZANNA lonely beautiful classy French lady looking for happy decent reliable man for lots of TLC and good times. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 375711

SARAH 38, slim, nice looking, tactile, no ties, WLTW kind, loving male to enjoy affectionate relationship. Any age/looks. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 378483

DIVORCED female, attractive, OHAC, fed up with own company, looking to make life a little more exciting with likeminded man. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 372059

MAGGIE young at heart 40's female, single, sincere and honest seeks romance with likeminded male to enjoy weekends away and more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 379538

LISA 38 slim attractive blonde, looking for a man who will appreciate a feminine, fashionable, fun, romantic woman with a mind of her own. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 379539

PAULINE attractive petite nurse, loves evenings in/out, looking for honest male to share loving friendship and good times. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 379535

I'M attractive, very tactile with an hourglass figure, looking for fun and good times. Can you help? Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 368889

MANDY 36, size 10, looking for relationship with open-minded man. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 360317

CARLY beautiful slim brunette looking for naughty mature male 50-70yrs for fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 378589

BETTY fuller figured black female, 26, body confident, affectionate, WLTW older, chocolate loving male for daytime meets. Any status. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 377511

RACHEL 38, slim, attractive, works full time, seeks sensitive, funny gent for friendship, companionship, hopefully relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 379299

VERY attractive 18yr old fitness instructor looking to burn some extra calories with older experienced male who thinks he can keep up. 30-60. ACA. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 364311

KIRSTY 36 attractive, blonde, seeking open-minded decent male for fun friendship, 40-60yrs. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 373013

ANNA 29yr old nurse, 6ft curvy auburn beauty, likes cosy nights in, genuinely seeking older, well built male to look after. 40-60yrs. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 375139

HOME alone with no one to call my own! 38yr old naughty girl looking for fun. Can travel. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363277

SLIM attractive lady with long auburn hair just wants to have a good time with likeminded older guy up to 75yrs. Looks/status unimportant. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 368119

YOUNG looking attractive slim blonde, very lonely, WLTW nice guy for whatever life throws at us. No expectations. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 370111

DIVORCED very lonely single mum, young looking, slim, attractive, WLTW single male for companionship. Any age/looks/status unimportant. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 370023

JENNY blue eyed cuddly independent female, loves countryside, animals, cooking, WLTW older male to spoil and look after. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 378481

RACHEL 34, brown hair, blue eyes, slim, curvy, professional, likes cinema, walks, socialising, meals out, pubs, pool, seeks similar male. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 262978

28YR old tall good looking and single, just looking for a bit of fun with spontaneous, open minded man. You won't be disappointed. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 375137

STACY 28yr old gorgeous brunette with good figure, intelligent and WLTW genuine male to get to know for fun dates and more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 377509

FREYA 24yr old single mum, looking for male for free time frolics, call me if you're interested, it could be fun! Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 378985

FRANCES female, loves nights in/out, seeking uncomplicated male who can occupy my free time for quality companionship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 378981

LITTLE bit nice and definitely a little bit naughty! Imaginative curvy blonde seeks male for kisses and cuddles. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363426

FEMALE looking for gent, 65-70, caring, loving and independent. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 378295

58YR old male, seeks female, 25-50 for friendship, fun, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 379143

FUNNY unusual, caring, kind, unique me, snow on roof, David, seeks female, 20-50. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 375831

men seeking women
Ladies Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people. Send : CHAT207 To : 65125 (T&C's below).

MALE 60, seeks female who needs a man for occasional evenings and weekend pleasures, any age/status. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 379873

54YR old divorced single dad, 5ft 8ins, N/S, medium build, car owner, GSOH, seeks female, 30-55. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 379599

TALL 30's guy, fun, cheeky, little extra padding, seeks open minded, slim, vivacious, curvy babe for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 339081

GENUINE male, 54, own home, seeks female, any age for fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 368871

PETE nice guy 40, seeks older, slim/ish, confident Liz McDonald type for fun, friendship, flirtation and more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 374605

GLAMOROUS granny wanted, 60 plus by Steve, 54 for daytime fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 370841

58YR old male, seeks female, 25-50 for friendship, fun, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 379143

31YR old, slim, dark hair, friendly, many interests seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 352753

SINGLE dad, 45, honest, caring, brown eyes, likes holidays, football, swimming, walks, seeking special female, any age and looks. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 378219

PAUL young energetic 60yr old, seeks slim, attractive lady, 55-60 for fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 376485

HAROLD 70yr old male, divorced, lonely, solvent, OHAC, seeking female for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 379759

54YR old divorced male, OHAC, seeks female under 50 for fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 379729

LEE tall nice guy, late 30's, seeks fun, flirty, open-minded, forward, vivacious, slim, curvy babe for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 373481

JOHN 48, 5ft 10ins, warm, intelligent, hardworking, unconventional, unpretentious, seeks sensitive, intelligent lady. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 388412

PAUL 35, seeks female, medium build, attractive for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 374601

SIMON 45, single dad, likes weekend breaks, days out, cosy nights in, seeks N/S lady for LTR. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 377679

MALE 50, fit, friendly, down to earth, seeks female for fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 372407

GEORGE lonely, retired businessman, 66, tall, own home, seeks slim female for LTR. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 379593

STEVE young looking, attractive 49yr old male, tall, blue eyes, loving, genuine, seeks honest, loving lady for LTR. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 387964

PAUL 49, N/S, slim, likes good things in life, seeks genuine, caring, honest lady for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 388436

LOVING caring 63yr old widower, seeks lady for caring relationship and to share the good things in life. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 379341

gay/friends seeking
Guys Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people. Send : CHAT207 To : 65125 (T&C's below). Or go online www.localgaydate.co.uk

BI-CURIOSY male, 50, seeks well built, executive type male for fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 379489

MALE 34, attractive, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, blond hair, seeks slim male for fun relationship. Any area, can travel. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 311892

DAVE tall 54, seeks TV or feminine male for fun, any age/status. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 378753

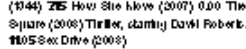
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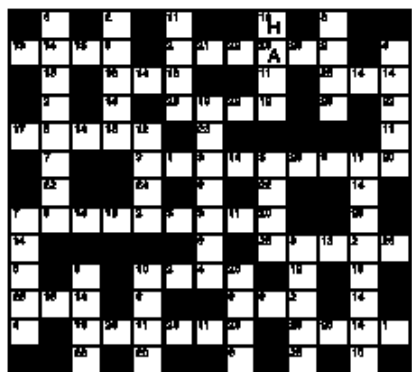
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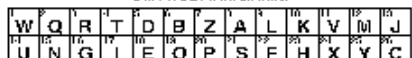
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



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Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

7. Pallet construction worker? (5,8)
8. You can't see it, you know it (8)
9. The half that's best left to go outside! (4)
10. A fellow is a fair chap (5)
12. The force of an phonics (6)
14. Officer found on the staff? (6)
16. Not the first time (5)
18. A member of the opposition in Roman times (4)
20. An affair to arouse curiosity (8)
22. Are they all model patients in it? (5,8)

Quick Clues:

Across

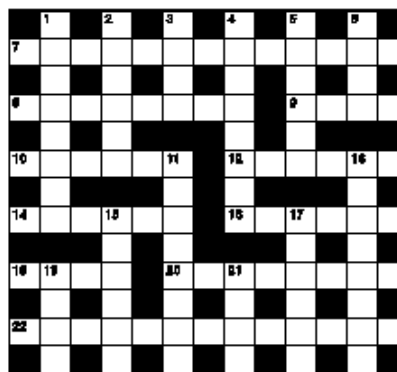
7. Remembrance (13)
8. Succession (8)
9. Revert back (4)
10. Gosh (6)
12. Overl emphatically (6)
14. Outphased (8)
16. Chalkboard, etc. (8)
18. Stimulus (4)
20. Penitent (8)
22. Resurrection (13)

Down

1. Nine dogs variously engaged (5,2)
2. Button takes an age to finish a bird (8)
3. In this place he really is fearless (4)
4. They don't speak much about others (8)
5. From the Austral land we received a reply (6)
6. Knot sailors try to avoid (4)
11. The whole world finds it illuminating (8)
13. It's unusual and there's only one (8)
15. Solid lump of ship plating (6)
17. Where doctors acquire a beaklike manner? (5)
19. A direction on glass (4)
21. What the sea may do to a ship (4)

Down

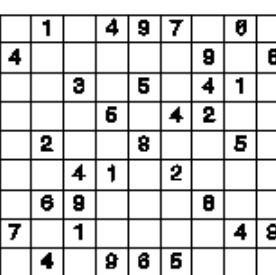
1. Outer (8)
2. Hardy (6)
3. Ooze (4)
4. Demand (8)
5. Account (6)
6. The two (4)
11. Allocated (8)
13. Authorize (8)
15. Salt (6)
17. Mistakes (5)
19. Rain heavily (4)
21. Natch (4)



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1. Nine, 8. Fearsome, 9. Swagman, 10. Edna, 12. Swagman, 14. Spunk, 15. Endless, 17. Swagman, 18. Power, 19. Inward, 21. Inward, 22. Love. Down: 1. Nine, 2. Slowly, 3. Strong, 4. Strong, 5. Swagman, 6. Swagman, 7. Alot, 11. Hardly, 13. Swagman, 14. Swagman, 15. Swagman, 16. Swagman, 17. Swagman, 18. Swagman, 19. Swagman, 20. Swagman, 21. Swagman, 22. Swagman.

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.



Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



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VAUXHALL CORSA SXi, 55 plate, 69,500 miles, one lady owner, fsh, black, excellent condition, £2,700 ono. 07976 850105.

VAUXHALL Frontera 2.0 petrol, 4x4 limited Estate, (02), 59k, 12 months MoT, excellent condition £1,500 ono. Shifnal 07908 249047.

VAUXHALL VECTRA SXi, 52 reg, MoT Sept 2012, alloy wheels, A/C, £500 for quick sale. 07970 659226 or 01902 307735.

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sport

Happy Harris smacks in the winner

Matlock 2 Stourport 3
STOURPORT ladies firsts retained their unbeaten record when Sophie Harris lashed in the winner at Matlock.

Lora Symonds opened up the opposition's defence for Sade Gerald to slot home the opener.

But the hosts were back on level terms in short order, pouncing on a loose pass from the visitors' back line.

Stourport continued to press and Katie Miller combined with Symonds to set up Gerald for her second goal.

In the second half Stourport's Georgi Burns, Pippa Lewis, and Harris all had opportunities but it was Matlock who scored to make it 2-2.

However, one last spirited push by Stourport saw Sarah Cavendish begin a move culminating in a Lewis pass which brought a fierce first-time strike for the winner from Harris.

Stourport 1 Telford 1
The seconds shared the points with a team three places below them in the Feeder West table.

Telford scored after 20 minutes, but Stourport levelled 10 minutes later. A short corner was worked through Shelley Tromans for Fran Moss to finish at the left-hand post.

Stourport 2 Old Silhillians 4
Two goals from Karen McIntyre helped the thirds to a 2-1 second-half

lead. But the visitors levelled and then went clear.

Droitwich 8 Stourport 3
Goals flew in during the fourths' match at Droitwich, but it was the home side who notched most of them.

Kings Heath 1 Stourport 2
A goal at each end of the first half from Anna Weston was enough for the fifths to take all three points despite Kings Heath scoring later.

Samurai star shining in Sweden

SAMURAI judo ace Kate Walker followed up her gold at the Scottish Senior Open with a bronze in Sweden.

With around 20 European nations represented, plus others from further afield, the Swedish Senior Open was a tough competition.

After a first round bye at the Boras club, Walker faced a difficult opponent in Dutch player Marit De Gier. De Gier had a high right-hand grip and kept trying a deep hip throw, but Walker finished quickly with maximum points by stepping around the attack and countering with a superb leg throw.

De Gier went on to win the other bronze, so an emphatic victory against a player of this standard was a really good marker.

Walker's next opponent was another tough one, tournament favourite and number one seed



Samurai star Kate Walker. Picture: Roy Riley

Marlies Priesner from Austria, who defeated her in the European Under-23 Championships in Sarejevo last year. Walker shrugged off the reputation and took the contest to her opponent from the start.

Her strategy was to catch Pries-

ner's sleeve as she came forward and then pressure the Austrian with lots of attacks, particularly on the edge of the mat where Priesner has a tendency to drop to the ground and concede a penalty. This worked very well with Priesner conceding two penalties which

gave Walker the victory. This put her into the semi-final against top German Svea Schwaabe, the number three seed. Walker again dominated and with just seconds to go was winning by a penalty and dictating terms when a last desperate attack caught her for a score.

Chance

There was absolutely no time for Walker to equalize and her chance of gold had vanished.

However, she recovered mentally well for the bronze play-off against another very experienced player in Belgium's Sandrine Billiet. The Belgian is an energetic right-hander but Walker was getting her left hand onto Billiet's collar and controlling the pace. Suddenly she changed to a side grip and executed a beautiful sacrifice throw which gained a

high score and very nearly led to a groundhold. Now well ahead, Walker went back to the controlling grip and ran down the clock to take the bronze.

The result secures Walker's place at the European Under-23 Championships in Russia, after which she will compete in the Korean Open in Seoul as her last event before Christmas.

Judo comes to Wyre Forest Glades this weekend with a two-day Samurai tournament in the main arena. Saturday sees a junior grade band event while Sunday starts with the veteran masters followed by senior high grades. Admission is free to anybody producing a front page from the Chronicle.

For details about starting judo or information about the Samurai club and its activities, telephone 0776 1122977 or visit the Samurai website on www.samurai.org.uk

Bewdley fail to fire as visitors take the points

Bewdley Town 1 Shawbury 3

BEWDLEY TOWN looked far from title contenders as they went down to a side which had been winless in its last six games.

But the visitors showed a competitive streak that was evidently missing from Bewdley.

Shawbury took the lead with their first corner of the game and continued to dominate possession.

Ten minutes into the second half Bewdley were gifted an equaliser when Richard Costello's header slipped through the hands of the Shawbury keeper.

But that was the only gift that Shawbury were prepared to present as a further two goals saw them take away a deserved victory.

Joint first team manager Brian Lacey said Bewdley had "failed to show up".

"We were not at the races today, a very disappointing performance," he said.

Unusual

"We failed to compete in all areas of the park and Shawbury took full advantage of us having an off day.

"We started the game with the same line-up for the third game running, which is quite unusual for us.

"Going into the game the lads had been playing well, but not for the first time this season we failed to show up. We struggled to put any number of passes together and showed a complete lack of movement on and off the ball.

"We have the players to compete for a top three spot in this league, but they just can't expect teams to roll over and let us play our brand of football and must learn that they need to raise their game whoever the opposition is – the paying spectators deserve this, those players sat on the bench deserve this, and the club as a whole deserves this. There is no room for complacency."

Youngsters' try spree

KIDDERMINSTER Carolans' first team had no game at the weekend and resume on Saturday at home to Banbury. The seconds lost 24-5 at Alcester while the thirds drew 10-10 at home to Woodrush.

The under-16s took a huge 68-7 win at Bromsgrove, running riot after leading 21-7 at the interval.

There were two tries each for Mitch Dwyer, Dan Cooper, James Turner and Tom Mayall with David Bisset and Nial Adams also crossing. Bisset landed nine conversions.



Richard Costello scores Bewdley's goal
Picture: Joe Turner

Double win for teen ace

TEENAGE Kidderminster Golf Club player Henry James recorded consecutive wins in two prestigious county events.

He won the under-18 matchplay championship at Churchill and Blakedown and followed with a four and three victory over Paul Reeves (Redditch) to take the men's matchplay title.

Kidderminster retained the Vivien Moore Bowl by defeating Stourbridge in the annual 36-hole competition. Dave Preece and Matt Beddoes (Kidderminster) took the Jubilee Salvagers with a net score of 129.

The Centenary Trophy was won by John Juggins and Adrian Sharpe with 42 points, beating Duncan Round and Tim Browne on countback.

The annual captain (Paul Massey) versus secretary (Malcolm Pritchard) match saw the captain's team regain the Trophy by 459-434.

Leading qualifiers for the Jubilee Cups (Winter Knockout) were Mike Thompson and Phil Bourne with 42 points followed by Paul Upton and Paul Simmonds with 40.

HARRIERS BACK ON THEIR GAME

Kidderminster 2 Tamworth 0

FIRST-HALF goals from Lee Vaughan and Steve Guinan gave Harriers a timely boost after their bitterly disappointing exit from the FA Cup.

Vaughan converted an early penalty before Guinan hit the target to get Harriers' stuttering campaign back on track.

Their victory lifted them into eighth place in the Blue Square Bet Premier table, four points off the play-off zone. It came after boss Steve Burr rang the changes following his side's dismal 4-1 FA Cup fourth qualifying round replay defeat at Corby Town last week.

Burr's assistant Gary Whild said: "All the lads wanted to put things right. They did that and a difficult week has ended on a good note for us."

Kidderminster moved above Tamworth in the table by ending the visitors' run of five league matches without defeat.

But it might have been a different story had former Kidderminster campaigner Francino Francis been slightly more accurate with a header which hit the top of the bar after just three minutes.

Francis was in the spotlight three minutes later when he brought down Marc Williams to enable Vaughan to put Harriers ahead from the spot.

Dave Bird then saw his header brilliantly saved by keeper Jonathan Hedge.

But Harriers made it 2-0 in the 18th minute when the ball fell kindly for Guinan and he scored with an excellent shot on the turn.

The Lambs looked more threatening after the break but were unable to penetrate the Aggborough rear-guard.

A floodlight failure, four minutes later, saw the players leave the pitch for 40 minutes but it was Kidderminster's hopes which were turned out when Reynolds added a second and Andy Hall finished off a miserable night.

Corby 4 Kidderminster 1

in the 57th minute when Paul Mayo's mishit cross caught Lyness out of position and the ball sailed over the flailing keeper.

Six minutes later Matt Rhead's flick header reached James Ozmen at the far post and the knock-back found Callum Reynolds who bundled the ball home.

A floodlight failure, four minutes later, saw the players leave the pitch for 40 minutes but it was Kidderminster's hopes which were turned out when Reynolds added a second and Andy Hall finished off a miserable night.

Lights go out on the Cup dream

HARRIERS' FA Cup dream ended on Wednesday last week as they crashed out in the fourth-qualifying round replay at lower league Corby.

Steve Burr's men took the lead in the seventh minute of the game when the lively Dave Hankin delivered an in-perfect centre for Steve Guinan to head home.

Kidderminster controlled the next 20 minutes but had a lucky escape when Dean Lyness made a hash of a speculative 40-yard lob from Stephen Towers.

Lyness made amends for his earlier mistake with two fine saves to keep out efforts from Andy Hall and Jordan Smith as Corby pressed before the interval.

Harriers ran out of luck after the half-time break, though, as Corby equalised

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Steve Guinan celebrates after putting Kidderminster 2-0 up

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